

**AGENDA ITEM VI B 1**

**PROGRESS REPORTS ON A CONDITIONALLY APPROVED  
PROGRAM**

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
- NEW ORLEANS**

**MASTER OF NURSING - NURSE ANESTHESIA OPTION**

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##### **MASTER OF NURSING - NURSE ANESTHESIA OPTION**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At its meeting of December 6, 2001, the Board of Regents took the following action:

**Conditional approval is granted for the proposed Master of Nursing - Nurse Anesthesia Option at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans (CIP Code 51.1604), to be implemented beginning January, 2002, with the following stipulations:**

- 1. Prior to submittal of a request to the Louisiana Legislature for a tuition increase to support this program, appropriate staff of the Board of Regents and representatives from the LSUHSC shall meet to review the program budget and recommend a proposed tuition increase. The tuition increase recommendation shall take into account additional expenses incurred as a result of program implementation as compared to additional revenues generated by a required tuition increase to meet the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) average for similar programs.**
- 2. Upon agreement of a proposed tuition increase, the Board of Regents shall consider requesting from the Legislature necessary action needed to increase tuition levels for the program consistent with average costs for similar programs in the SREB region. This request shall be consistent with the recommended goal of a 70-30 ratio of cost sharing between the State and the student. If the Legislature elects not to grant this increase, the Regents shall reconsider the program in light of available funding.**
- 3. Beginning August 1, 2002, and for four years thereafter, LSUHSC shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Higher Education which updates efforts to fully implement the proposed program and provides a complete annual budget for each upcoming academic year.**

## **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Stipulations 1 and 2 were accomplished during the 2002 Legislative Session. The various aspects of Stipulation 3 are addressed below, including further elaboration of budgetary matters.

### **Students**

In its first progress report, the LSUHSC indicates that the program was implemented in January, 2002, at which time twenty-four qualified students were enrolled in the Nurse Anesthesia (NA) specialty courses. The first class will graduate in May of 2004. Forty students have been accepted into the class of 2005. Forty students have also been accepted to the class of 2006.

### **Faculty**

An Assistant Program Coordinator for Academic Affairs and a full-time faculty member were hired in June 2002 and July 2002 to teach nurse anesthesia (NA) content, monitor and evaluate clinical experiences, and to establish additional clinical sites throughout Louisiana. The report adds:

*It is planned to add an additional full-time faculty member in 2003. By 2004, a part-time clinical simulator laboratory coordinator will be added.*

### **Clinical Affiliations**

There are now twenty-five signed agreements in place for student clinical experiences at various health care facilities in the New Orleans/South Louisiana environs -- fifteen more than last year.

### **Equipment**

From the report:

*Two major acquisitions have been ordered for the learning laboratory – an Emergency Care Simulator and an Immersion Bronchoscopy Simulator... The Human Pediatric Simulator has been acquired and is functional. The simulator laboratory has been moved to larger quarters to accommodate more students at a time.*

### **Financial Support**

After the program was approved in 2001, a request was made to the Louisiana Legislature for a tuition increase to \$7,500 per student annually, a level comparable to the annual tuition at other NA programs in the Southern Region. The increase was approved, and NA students enrolled in Fall 2002 began paying the new amount. Projected revenues and expenditures indicate that this level of tuition is sufficient to sustain the program for the foreseeable future.

A detailed budget for the first four years of the program was provided in the report. A synopsis follows:

	Year 1 (2001-02)	Year 2 (2002-03)	Year 3 (2003-04)	Year 4 (2004-05)
Students	24	64	103	118
Total Income	\$403,029	\$729,036	\$993,994	\$834,555
Tuition	\$54,288	\$452,640	\$728,468	\$834,555
Federal Grant	\$309,416	\$276,396	\$265,525	\$0
Expenses	\$430,206	\$624,352	\$794,538	\$729,038
<b>Deficit/Surplus</b>	(\$27,177)	\$104,684	\$199,456	\$105,517

### **Accreditation**

The program has been granted continued accreditation (effective May 17, 2003) for ten years by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), which is the mandatory accrediting agency for this program according to Regents policy. The notification letter from the COA makes the following note:

*The COA would like you to know that very few programs are not required to submit progress reports following an accreditation review and even fewer programs have achieved the maximum accreditation of ten years. [...] Please accept the COA's congratulations on your performance in achieving maximum accreditation status.*

### **STAFF SUMMARY**

Qualified faculty are in place; the Center plans to hire more as the program grows. Qualified students continue to seek enrollment in the program in significant numbers. More clinical affiliations have been established. Essential equipment has been purchased and continues to be purchased. The program has been granted the maximum accreditation status allowed by the COA, the required accrediting agency for this program. Moreover, a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on-site visit to the LSUHSC in 2002 to monitor implementation of tasks associated with a HRSA grant resulted in *no recommendations suggested for any area of grant activities*. The program is developing at the highest level of quality. No further progress reports should be required.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the 2002-2003 Progress Report from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Relative to the Implementation of the Master of Nursing-Nurse Anesthesia Option. No further progress reports are required.***